Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0743
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 2338

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, SW, US

SUBJECT: SWEDISH PRESS COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING

WITH UN PERMREP THUNBORG

REF: USUN 1723

- 1. SWEDISH PRESS JUNE 1 CARRIED A NUMBER OF STORIES ON THE MEETING OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG WITH SWEDISH PERMREP THUNBORG, AND THUNBORG'S ACCOUNT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S EXPLANATION OF HIS REPORTED REMARK ABOUT SWEDISH "RACISM." CRUX OF THE PRESS REPORTS IS THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG TOLD THUNBORG THAT HE COULD NOT REMEMBER DESCRIBING THE SWEDES AS "TERRIBLE" RACISTS, THAT HE WAS MISINTERPRETED AND THAT HE HAD ACTUALLY REPLIED TO A SPECIFIC QUESTION ABOUT SWEDEN, THAT THE SWEDES WERE NO DIFFERENT FROM ANYONE ELSE IN HAVING RACIST TENDENCIES. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO SINGLE OUT THE SWEDES AS BEING WORSE RACISTS THAT OTHERS.
- 2. THUNBORG STATED THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG EXPLAINED HE IS AWARE OF AND ADMIRES SWEDISH POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFORTS TO INTEGRATE MINORITIES INTO SWEDISH SOCIETY. PRESS ACCOUNTS NOTE THAT THUNBORG WAS CAREFUL UNCLASSIFIED

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TO EMPHASIZE THAT HIS CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG DID NOT IN ANY WAY CONSTITUTE A DIPLOMATIC PROTEST. THUNBORG TOLD THE SWEDISH PRESS THAT "WE HAD A VERY FREINDLY TALK. I RECEIVED AN EXPLANATION AND I AM SATISFIED WITH IT."

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, AMBASSADOR YOUNG CONFIRMED,

DURING HIS DISCUSSION WITH THUNBORG, THAT HE WILL PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO SWEDEN IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION ISSUED BY AID MINISTER ULLSTEN IN MAPUTO. PERRY

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SW, US, (YOUNG, ANDREW J)

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